

14-20 May 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- **High-level visit to Yambio:** The UNHCR Representative and the Government’s Commissioner for Refugee Affairs visited Western Equatoria State on 11-13 May. The Representative expressed his appreciation for the generosity and hospitality of the people and local government, as well as UNHCR’s commitment to support both refugees and host communities.
- **NFI distribution in Bentiu town:** As a response to the influx of new IDPs in Bentiu town, Unity State, UNHCR targeted 500 most vulnerable families with 1,000 blankets, 1,000 mats, 1,000 mosquito nets, and 250 kitchen sets. UNHCR managed to distribute NFIs to 394 most vulnerable IDP households (1,103 individuals). All are UNHCR Protection-based beneficiaries.
- **NFI kits airlifted to Upper Nile State:** 1,000 NFI kits were airlifted from Bor in Jonglei State to Pagak, Maiwut County, on 18 May. 700 kits will be distributed by UNHCR implementing partner ADRA (Adventist Development & Relief Agency) to targeted IDPs throughout Maiwut County; 300 kits are a contingency stock.
- **Wristbands delivered to Bentiu POC:** UNHCR delivered 15 solar streetlights as well as 100,000 registration wristbands for site population verification.
- **Third-country resettlement case:** On 20 May a 17-year-old unaccompanied minor refugee girl from South Kordofan State in Sudan left Juba for Norway, having been granted emergency third-country resettlement. She is the first person to be resettled this year.

414,052,136 USD

Requested for the operation



Gap
74.35%

Current population of concern

IDPs since 15 Dec
2013



1,555,059

Of them, 121,418 IDPs reside in UNMISS Protection of Civilians sites

Refugees in South
Sudan



261,925

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- South Sudanese opposition forces said on 19 May they had captured a refinery near a major oilfield in the Paloch area, Upper Nile State, and told firms there to shut down operations and evacuate their staff. Fighting was still going on in the area. (Reuters)
- Government forces have reportedly been driven out of Malakal and fighting is ongoing in Melut and around the nearby Paloch oil field, Upper Nile State.
- Two mortar bombs landed in the UNMISS Melut Protection of Civilians (POC) site, killing four and seriously wounding 8 IDPs. Some 270 IDPs arrived at the Melut POC on 19 May; another 250-350 are sheltering at a newly allocated protection area adjacent to the POC site.
- The Government assault in the southern part of Unity State that began in late April has cut off over 650,000 from aid, according to the UN and aid agencies. Government forces have been pushing south from the government-held town of Bentiu, capital of Unity State, towards the opposition zone around the town of Leer. (AFP, 18 May)
- Most agencies have pulled out of Koch, Leer, Ganyiel, Nyal and Mayendit, drastically reducing service delivery in southern Unity. Partners report that the humanitarian hub and a hospital have been destroyed in Koch. Civilians in main towns have reportedly fled to remote villages, while others have dispersed to the bush. Since late April, some 151 staff members from 22 organizations have been relocated from southern Unity due to the insecurity.
- All humanitarian staff, including UNHCR staff, in Malakal have been confined to the POC site. There is a risk of IDPs moving to Maban County and the four refugee camps there. Malakal airport is closed, as is Bentiu airport in Unity State.
- There has been an influx of new arrivals in Bentiu POC site. Most IDPs are from Rubkona, Guit and Mayom counties. Teachers in the POC site are still on strike. Following a dispute at a water point, a grenade went off, injuring five IDPs on 20 May.
- SPLA Day (16 May) was deferred to an unspecified date in July. Critics say the Government lacks funds for the event. Some bakeries and bottled water factories in Juba have closed. Petrol prices have also risen sharply. The Government has not commented on these developments.
- South Sudan will export an estimated 4 million barrels of oil in June, down from 4.4 million barrels in May, according to energy news agency Platts - a drop of 9 per cent.
- "The economic situation in South Sudan is deteriorating, particularly in view of the drop in oil revenues, heavy expenditure on defence and the inability of the Government to secure external financial support." (Ellen Loej, head of UNMISS)
- Human Rights Watch has released a report on arbitrary detentions and torture in the country.

REFUGEE RESPONSE



Protection

Achievements and Impact

Central Equatoria State

- UNHCR, the Commission for Refugee Affairs and ACROSS supervised successful leadership refugee elections in Lasu settlement on 14 May.

Unity State

- 334 new refugees arrived in Yida settlement and 304 refugees were transferred from Yida to Ajuong Thok (AT) camp from 14-20 May.
- 11,888 new arrivals have been registered in Yida since 23 December 2014; 12,995 refugees have been relocated from Yida to AT during the same period; 87 per cent of the relocated refugees are new arrivals.
- AT: 43 separated and 2 unaccompanied children (19 M/26 F) were received at the reception centre.
- AT: 4 children (3 boys and 1 girl) were reunified with their parents.

- AT: 28 refugees were reached with SGBV prevention interventions; 7 children (3 boys and 4 girls) were placed in foster care.

Upper Nile State

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Western Equatoria State

- Makpandu refugee settlement: 7 *tukuls* were constructed and completed and 2 are under construction for refugees with specific needs.
- Child Protection and SGBV committees were strengthened in Makpandu and Ezo settlements. They now involve refugee and host community representatives as well as *payam* structures (community and religious leaders, police, teachers, health officers, refugee leaders and others, including UNHCR). The aim is for better community-based intervention on conflict resolution, case management, prevention of and response to SGBV incidents, as well as peaceful coexistence between host and refugee communities.

Education

Achievements and Impact

Unity State

- Ajuong Thok: The ICT lab, Mahila child friendly space in Block 23, and Merowe primary school were visited by donors from the UK's Department for International Development.

Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

Unity State

- Ajuong Thok: There has been a decrease of malnutrition prevalence among new arrivals, and no severe malnutrition cases; the global acute malnutrition rate was 6.7 per cent compared to an average of 9 per cent since the beginning of the refugee influx on 23 December 2014; both percentages are within normal limits and indicate an improvement.
- Mass nutritional screening using mid-arm circumference was conducted in Ajuong Thok among pregnant and lactating women (PLW), and children aged 6-59 months. Total malnutrition prevalence in children was 2.8 per cent (within normal limits), and 14.2 per cent in PLW (above the limit of 10 per cent).

Identified needs and remaining gaps

Upper Nile State

- Maban County: Acute malnutrition continues to increase in all four camps. Nutrition supplies, including Plumpy'Nut and therapeutic milk have reached Maban; an additional consignment is being considered.

Health

Achievements and Impact

Unity State

- The current global acute malnutrition rate among new arrivals in Ajuong Thok is 8.3 per cent (UNHCR standard is <10 per cent).

Upper Nile State

- Maban County: UNHCR operational partner MSF-Holland has fully resumed its paediatric and maternal health services at Gentil hospital which is used by refugees from Yusuf Batil, Kaya and Gendrassa camps. Services had been downscaled since early 2015 due to insecurity.

Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

Unity State

- Ajuong Thok: 245 emergency shelter kits and 81 tool kits were distributed; 22 transitional shelters were constructed.

Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

Unity State

- Yida: 60 family latrines were constructed.
- Yida: 1,572 refugees (308 new arrivals) received hygiene and sanitation awareness messages.
- Yida: 948 bars of soap were distributed during hygiene promotion to volunteers, school children, and new arrivals.
- Ajuong Thok: 41 family and 5 emergency latrines were constructed last week.
- Ajuong Thok: 64 students (28 F) attended a schools' hygiene session.

Identified needs and remaining gaps

Unity State

- Crude average daily water provision in Ajuong Thok was 14 l/p/d (below the Sphere standard). The continuous influx of refugees is putting pressure on already overstretched water resources, with some boreholes pumping for up to 17 hours a day. However, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) has pre-positioned a drilling rig in the camp, with the crew expected this week. It is anticipated that water provision will improve in the coming weeks.

Logistics/Supply

Unity and Upper Nile States

- Two trucks with core relief items (CRI) arrived and were unloaded in Malakal on 19 May. At least 16 trucks carrying CRI are stuck in Jamjang, Unity State, awaiting clearance to proceed to Malakal and Maban in Upper Nile State.

IDP RESPONSE

Protection

Achievements and Impact

Eastern Equatoria State

- Nimule: 16 people (8 women and 8 men) have been elected to a Community Watch Group in Melijo IDP site (population 4,660). Two days of UNHCR-funded training was given to them and 5 others on the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities, and the basic South Sudan legal-framework relating to gender-based violence and child abuse.

Jonglei State

- Bor County: The UNHCR-funded Malual-gorbaar Community Centre in Kolnyang *payam*, started in November 2014, is due to be completed this week.

Lakes State

- Mingkaman: An Inter-Agency Rapid Assessment on 14 May indicated that there were 344 new IDP arrivals from Western Equatoria, Central Equatoria and Lakes States.
- Mingkaman: UNHCR partners conducted paralegal training for 45 NGO staff from ACTED, Oxfam, IRC, Save the Children, among others.

Unity State

- UNHCR supported an inter-agency food distribution in Bentiu town to support the increasing number of IDPs arriving there.
- Yida: 8 unaccompanied and separated minors in Pariang *payam* received food and soap distributed by Africa Humanitarian Action.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The Protection Cluster continued to monitor the situation in southern Unity and Upper Nile States, where hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced and exposed to protection threats following offensives launched by the SPLA in the former and by the SPLA-IO and Maj-Gen Olony's troops in the latter. The withdrawal of protection staff and/or downsizing of protection programmes in locations such as Koch, Mayendit, Leer, Ganyiel and Melut will have a negative impact on protection monitoring and critical lifesaving assistance to IDPs. Given the fluidity of the situation, it is unclear when partners will be able to return.

Unity State

- Forced recruitment of vulnerable boys who visit Bentiu in search of food and casual work has been reported. A UN child protection unit has documented some cases but was not able to consistently have access to the town to discuss the matter with the authorities. A coordination meeting with authorities took place on 19 May, and the ban on their movement in Bentiu town was lifted.



Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

Unity State

- Bentiu POC: Some vulnerable new arrivals have been sheltered at communal reception *tukuls* with support from UNHCR which has supplied 50 plastic sheets for covering newly erected *tukuls*, and 15 plastics sheets for covering class rooms.
- Yida: NFIs (sleeping mats, blankets, mosquito-nets, kitchen sets) were distributed by Samaritans' Purse to 184 IDPs in Pariang *payam*.

Warrap State

- Kuajok: UNHCR distributed 160 loose NFIs from its 2014 stock in Wau to 160 households (returnees).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Upper Nile State

- Melut County: Some shelters in the IDP sites (overall population 26,637, including the UNMISS POC) have been destroyed by heavy rain and require urgent rehabilitation/plastic sheeting. IDPs are requesting plastic sheeting, mosquito nets and blankets.
- So far none of the 2,163 new arrivals in Melut County in April and May have been given NFIs.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to US\$ 107,503,209 as of 20 May 2015.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with earmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

